

In the European Union the European Commission (EC) has decided not to implement and enforce Net Neutrality rules on broadband providers choosing instead to maintain competition mandates on broadband providers. The fact is that broadband competition helps maintain Net Neutrality. In the U.S. though the broadband marketplace has over the last decade become so anti-competitive the fixed broadband market has become a duopoly (and wireless market largely an oligopoly) which could become a far worse cable monopoly if the Verizon Wireless deals with the cable cartel are approved by the Justice Department and the FCC.

Speaking of the FCC's Net Neutrality order it was so weak that it looked like it was passed more for show than for protecting the Open Internet. Wireless services are exempted from the Net Neutrality order but that hasn't stopped Verizon Wireless and MetroPCS from suing to stop the Net Neutrality rules from taking effect, which still use Title I despite the U.S. Court of Appeals striking down FCC authority under Title I in Comcast v. FCC. AT&T is now willfully violating the principles of Net Neutrality with its announced wireless toll free data scheme. It is good that the AT&T T-Mobile merger was stopped as that would have given Ma Bell an anti-competitive Ma Cell and resulted in the wireless market becoming more of a duopoly. I urge the FCC to revisit its Net Neutrality rules as soon as possible, reclassify broadband under Title II and strengthen its order to truly protect the Open Internet.